

REMARKS

The *Decision on Appeal* of October 21, 2008 was received and carefully reviewed. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 12 were pending prior to the instant amendment. By this amendment, claims 1, 10 and 12 are canceled, and claims 2-4 are amended based on the *Decision*. As a result, Applicants respectfully request that claims 3, 4, 6, 7 and 9 be passed to allowance, since these claims are no longer rejected.

The Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences affirmed-in-part the pending rejections. Specifically, the rejection of claims 3, 4, 6, 7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 112, written description, was reversed, and the rejection of claims 1-3, 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Oka was affirmed.

In view of the reversal of the rejection of claims 3, 4, 6, 7 and 9, claim 4 is amended to independent form to include all of the limitations of claim 1, and claims 2 and 3 are amended to depend from claim 4. Rejected claims 1, 10 and 12 are canceled. As a result, claims 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 9 should now be in a condition for allowance.

If the Examiner deems that any issue remains after considering this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney/agent to expedite the prosecution and engage in a joint effort to work out a mutually satisfactory solution.

Respectfully submitted,
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